

Section 3.6 FISHERIES

This section discusses fisheries in the context of the affected environment (potential habitat and fish use), potential impacts associated with the proposed project, and mitigation measures designed to limit those impacts. The analysis of existing conditions and potential effects resulting from the construction and operation of the proposed project is based on the Application for Site Certification (ASC), literature review, agency information, and onsite surveys. A project vicinity map is shown on Figure 1-1 and the project area is shown on Figure 1-2. The term *project area* is used in reference to the area that includes all project-related activities.

3.6.1 Affected Environment

Table 3.6-1 presents a list of seven fish species with federal and/or state status identified by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries (NOAA Fisheries), and/or Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) as potentially occurring. Of these 7 species, three species are federally listed threatened species, and as such are currently protected under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*), chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), and steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*). However, the drainages located on the project area do not provide habitat for resident or anadromous fish.

Within the project area boundary there are no fish-bearing streams, but several of the project wind turbine strings are within approximately 1/4 mile horizontally of several small creeks, their tributaries, and other unnamed ephemeral creeks (Figure 1-2). The characteristics of these channels would likely classify them as Type 5 Waters according to guidelines established in Chapter 222-16-030 of the WAC. Whiskey Dick, Skookumchuck, and Whiskey Jim creeks all originate within the proposed project boundary, at an elevation of approximately 3,400 feet. Whiskey Dick and Skookumchuck Creeks flow east and southeast to an elevation of about 700 feet at their mouth at the Columbia River. Both creeks have a relatively steep gradient, with an average creekbed slope of 200 to 250 feet per mile over the 10- or 12-mile lengths of these creeks. Whiskey Jim Creek has an average gradient of 250 to 300 feet/mile until it joins Parke Creek at the eastern edge of the Kittitas Valley. Each of these creeks collects water from surface runoff, springs, and seeps. These channels are narrow, shallow systems with intermittent flows and do not provide habitat for resident or anadromous fish. Livestock grazing has likely affected the portions of the above-mentioned creeks that run through the project area to some degree in terms of reducing the amount of riparian vegetation present. The creeks transition from

intermittent flow in their upper elevations to perennial flow (downstream of the project) as they pick up flow from runoff, springs and seeps on the descent to lower elevations.

WDFW habitats and species maps and the StreamNet database confirmed that there are no fish-bearing streams within the Project area (WDFW 2003). However, the majority of the streams within the Project area, which are mapped as intermittent, drain into fish-bearing streams and/or priority fish-bearing streams. Priority fish are defined as any federal or state listed threatened, endangered, or candidate species, or any special status species of concern.

The nearest fishery is located along Quilomene Creek approximately 1 mile (1.6 km) north of the project and will not be impacted by the project (Figure 1-2). Downstream from the project area, the lower ends of Whiskey Dick, and the North Forks of Whiskey Dick and Skookumchuck Creeks contain rainbow trout, and summer steelhead are identified along the lower end of Whiskey Dick Creek as well. These fisheries are more than 5 miles to the east of the project.

The two transmission feeder lines would cross several small drainages and one canal. U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) maps indicate that all of the drainages are intermittent at the crossing locations (Figure 1-2). None of the drainages or canals contain any sensitive fish species or provide habitat for sensitive species. The BPA transmission feeder line has three drainage crossings, one of which is Parke Creek, which contains woody riparian habitat at the proposed transmission line crossing location. The PSE transmission feeder line has four drainage crossings and would cross the Highline irrigation canals. Any species present in the irrigation canals would most likely be nonsensitive warm-water fish. The feeder lines would span any drainage or canal that occurs within the corridor.

No other water bodies in the Project area contain any priority fish species based on WDFW habitat and species maps. If any fish species are present in these other water bodies, they would most likely be warm-water fish that would not be subject to federal or state mitigation requirements.

Table 3.6-1. Potential Occurrence of Federal and State Protected Fish Species within the Project Area

Species	Federal Status	State Status	Potential Occurrence within Project Area
Bull trout <i>Salvelinus confluentus</i>	Threatened	Candidate	Suitable stream habitat not present in project area
Chinook salmon <i>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha</i>	Threatened	Candidate	Suitable stream habitat not present in project area
Steelhead <i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>	Threatened	Candidate	Suitable stream habitat not present in project area
Interior redband trout <i>Oncorhynchus mykiss gairdneri</i>	Species of concern	None	Suitable stream habitat not present in project area
Mountain sucker <i>Catostomus platyrhynchus</i>	None	Candidate	Suitable stream habitat not present in project area
Pacific lamprey <i>Lampetra tridentate</i>	Species of concern	None	Suitable stream habitat not present in project area

Species	Federal Status	State Status	Potential Occurrence within Project Area
Westslope cutthroat <i>Oncorhynchus clarki lewisi</i>	Species of concern	None	Suitable stream habitat not present in project area

3.6.1.1 Kittitas Valley Alternative

There are no fish-bearing aquatic resources located within the Kittitas Valley project area. There are 6 streams located within this project area and all are classified as Type 5 waters as defined under Washington's interim water typing system (WAC 222-16-031). Type 5 waters are considered non fish-bearing. The nearest fish-bearing aquatic resources are the Yakima River and Swauk Creek, both located more than 0.5 mile from the project area. Within the project area is a series of small, narrow stream channels and seeps with intermittent flow into the Yakima River. These resources do not provide habitat for resident or anadromous fish. The Yakima River is known to support priority fish species as defined by the WDFW as being federal or state threatened, endangered, or candidate species and species of concern. Priority species known to occur in the Yakima River include bull trout, chinook, interior redband trout, mountain sucker, pacific lamprey, steelhead, and westslope cutthroat trout.

3.6.1.2 Desert Claim Alternative

There are 19 streams located within the Desert Claim project area or in the immediate vicinity and 5 of the streams within the project area have been classified as Type 3 waters with the remainder being Type 4 or 5 waters, as defined under Washington's interim water typing system (WAC 222-16-031). Type 3 waters have a moderate to slight potential to support fish, while Type 4 and 5 waters are considered non fish-bearing. No fish bearing streams have been identified within the project area in either the WDFW PHS database or the Streamnet database, however no survey information is available for this area.

Streams within the project area primarily drain into fish bearing streams, including streams that support fish species identified as priority species by the WDFW which includes federal or state threatened, endangered, or candidate species and species of concern. Fish bearing waters downstream of the Desert Claim project site include Reecer and Currier Creeks and the Yakima River. Reecer Creek is known to contain cutthroat trout, spring chinook, and summer steelhead. The Yakima River is known to contain spring chinook, summer steelhead, and bull trout.

The Columbia River distinct population segment of bull trout is listed as a threatened species under the ESA. The mid-Columbia River evolutionarily significant unit of steelhead trout is listed as a threatened species. Bull trout and steelhead trout populations in the Yakima River are also listed as threatened. The Desert Claim project area does not currently support any other known populations of fish species listed as endangered or threatened under the ESA.

3.6.1.3 Springwood Ranch Alternative

The Springwood Ranch alternative is located adjacent to the Yakima River and Taneum Creek crosses the site. The Yakima River supports spring chinook salmon runs, steelhead trout, and Pacific lamprey. Rainbow and cutthroat trout are common to the area. Eastern brook trout is likely present and bull trout have been reported within the project area near the mouth of Swauk Creek. Other common species in the area include sculpin, mountain whitefish, and dace. Spawning habitat is present, but the impact of high irrigation flows on summer habitat quality is considered to be a major problem for survival of juvenile steelhead.

Resident trout and anadromous fish species have historically used lower Taneum Creek for spawning and rearing. More recent surveys have found rainbow and cutthroat trout, eastern brook trout, steelhead and spring chinook salmon in the drainage. Spring chinook juveniles were observed in the drainage, indicating that spawning adults may be present. Lower Taneum Creek is contained in a low-gradient channel with good gravel and rubble available for spawning. In the past, upstream fish migration has been hindered by irrigation diversions. Water withdrawals have degraded habitat value in the lower basin by reducing the size of the stream, influencing water temperature and hindering upstream migration.

The Columbia River distinct population segment of bull trout is listed as a threatened species under the ESA. The mid-Columbia River evolutionarily significant unit of steelhead trout is listed as a threatened species. Bull trout and steelhead trout populations in the Yakima River are also listed as threatened. The Springwood Ranch area does not currently support any other known populations of fish species listed as endangered or threatened under the ESA.

3.6.1.4 Swauk Valley Ranch Alternative

The Swauk Valley Ranch site borders the north side of the Yakima River and Swauk Creek lies east of the site. There are no fish-bearing aquatic resources located within the project area. The nearest fish-bearing aquatic resources are the Yakima River and Swauk Creek, both located 0.25 mile from the project area. Within the project area are located one unnamed perennial stream and series of small, narrow stream channels and seeps with intermittent flow into Swauk Creek and the Yakima River. These resources do not provide habitat for resident or anadromous fish. The project area includes several potential stream channel crossings.

In the vicinity of the Swauk Valley Ranch site, the Yakima River supports spring chinook salmon, steelhead trout, and bull trout. Resident rainbow and cutthroat trout are common to the area, and the eastern brook trout is likely present. Bull trout have been reported in the project area near the mouth of Swauk Creek. Other common species in the area include sculpin, mountain whitefish, and dace. Channel morphology in the Yakima River between Manastash and Swauk Creeks consists primarily of long runs with occasional deep pools. Large boulders provide some cover; however, large woody debris frequency is low. Overall cover protecting the river is rated as poor. Side-channels are present and offer off-channel rearing opportunities, but can dry up in the late summer and fall as flows drop. Rip-rap placed along the margins where the railroad approaches the river impairs habitat quality along the south shoreline. Spawning

habitat is present, but the impact of high irrigation flows on summer habitat quality is considered to be a major problem for survival of juvenile steelhead.

The Columbia River district population segment of bull trout is listed as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. The mid-Columbia River evolutionarily significant unit of steelhead trout is listed as a threatened species. Bull trout and steelhead trout populations in the Yakima River are in this determination. The Swauk Valley Ranch area does not currently support any other known populations of fish species listed as endangered or threatened under the ESA. The PHS list (WDFW 1997) includes the bull trout and steelhead trout as candidate species, and considered vulnerable to significant population declines.

3.6.2 Impacts of Proposed Action

The project would result in an impact on fish if:

- A population of a threatened, endangered, regulated, or other sensitive species were affected by a reduction in numbers; alteration in behavior, reproduction, or survival; or a loss or disturbance of habitat;
- There were a substantial adverse effect on a species, natural community, or habitat that is recognized specifically as biologically significant in local, state, or federal policies, statutes, or regulations; or
- There were any impedance of fish migration routes lasting for a period that significantly disrupts migration.

No significant impacts on fisheries are anticipated to occur as a result of the project for the following reasons: (1) potential fish habitat for fish species with federal or state protected status is not located within the project area, and (2) aquatic conditions downstream of the project would not likely be affected since Best Management Practices (BMPs) would be implemented and applicable permits regarding runoff and sediment control would be complied with.

There is no significant difference for potential impacts under the different project scenarios. This is because the road, underground trench, and overhead collector line lengths are unchanged under each scenario. It is also because the 104-turbine/3-MW scenario requires excavation of larger foundations for a smaller number of WTGs, while the 158-turbine/1-MW scenario requires excavation of smaller foundations for a larger number of WTGs. However, each scenario would be built along the same string path and would therefore be the same distance from drainages. All design scenarios will adhere to the wetland, stream, and riparian setbacks outlined below. In addition, BMPs will be employed on site and compliance with applicable permits regarding runoff and sediment control will be maintained in all design scenarios. It is anticipated that these measures and the facility layout will minimize potential impacts that may result from construction or operation of the Project.

All project facilities will be located a considerable distance from streams, seeps, ponds, and springs. No project facility will be located closer than approximately 200 feet from a riparian area, although the maximum setback that would be required by Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) guidelines. In addition, project facilities will be located outside the

designated buffers of any wetlands or streams, as required by Section 17A.04.020 “Buffer width requirements” of the Kittitas County Code. The construction methods and control measures discussed in Section 3.3.4.1, “Construction General Stormwater Pollution Prevention Measures” will be adequate to protect all wetlands and riparian corridors. Please refer to Section 3.6.1, “Affected Environment” above for a description of creeks in the project area.

No project facilities or transmission feeder line poles or trails will be built in or near any streambeds, riparian corridors, or wetlands. The BPA transmission feeder line crosses one stream, Parke Creek, but the transmission poles will be located at least 200 feet back from the stream bank on either side and no heavy equipment will be used in the stream bed or riparian corridor for construction. WDFW has reviewed the proposed crossing site and construction techniques and has stated that no hydraulic permit is required. A copy of this letter is included in Appendix A.

No fish-bearing aquatic habitat has been identified within the project boundary, and the nearest documented fish-bearing aquatic resources is Quilomene Creek, located more than 1 mile north of the project area. In addition, as discussed above, the nearest downstream fishery is over 5 miles east of the project area. Aquatic conditions downstream of the project would not likely be affected since BMPs would be implemented (see Section 3.3.4.1, “Construction General Stormwater Pollution Prevention Measures”) and applicable permits regarding runoff and sediment control would be complied with. Therefore, neither downstream fish nor fish habitat would be affected by the project.

3.6.2.1 Construction Impacts

No streams or riparian areas will be impacted from construction disturbances related to wind turbines and roads. No wind turbine foundations or other infrastructure is proposed to be constructed within any streams or riparian areas, as illustrated in Figure 1-2. No project access roads cross any streams or riparian areas.

All project facilities will be located a considerable distance from wetlands in the project area. The closest project facility is a turbine access road between String Q and String R with an underground collector cable, a low intensity use, which will be located approximately 200 feet away from a small, unnamed spring just east of turbine C-5 (Figure 1-2). The construction methods and control measures discussed in Section 3.3.2, “Water—Impacts of the Proposed Action”, would minimize potential impacts to wetlands, streams, and riparian corridors.

Other potential impacts on fish or fish habitat associated with construction of the proposed project include impacts on water quality and changes in water quantity. Water quality can be degraded by accidental spills of petroleum hydrocarbons from construction activities, exposure to construction waste (e.g., concrete wash water), and erosion and sedimentation. Surface water runoff potential will be greatest during the construction of the project, when large quantities of soil will be disturbed for construction of roads, tower foundations, and other infrastructure. Water used for dust suppression would be directly applied using tanker trucks equipped with rear end sprinkler systems and absorbed on site or evaporated.

Although fish habitat is not documented within 1 mile of the Project area and the closest downstream fishery is 5 miles to the east, general mitigation measures have been developed to minimize the potential for water quality and quantity impacts, thereby minimizing the potential for impacts on fish and fish habitat. In addition, mitigation measures and impacts would be further detailed and refined as the design phase proceeds prior to construction. Potential water quality impacts related to construction are expected to be short term and negligible. Section 3.3, “Water Resources,” contains more detailed information on water quality/quantity impacts and mitigation.

Precipitation could result in surface runoff from project facilities during project construction. However, the project site grading plan and roadway design will incorporate measures in line with the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) and BMPs to ensure that most surface runoff will infiltrate directly into the surface soils surrounding project facilities. Potential surface water impacts resulting from runoff related to construction and operations of the project and measures to control such runoff are described below in Section 3.3, “Water Resources.” The project will implement a formal SWPPP and BMPs as described Section 3.3, “Water Resources,” to reduce and/or eliminate the discharge of suspended sediment and turbidity above the turbidity criteria stipulated in the Water Quality Standards for Surface Waters of the State of Washington (WAC 173-201A). Potential significant impacts due to erosion and sedimentation are not likely because of BMPs, arid climate, geology of the area, and drainages being located away from constructed areas.

A formal Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP), specifying the types of sediment and erosion control measures and accidental spill prevention and control measures to be implemented, will be designed and submitted to EFSEC for approval prior to construction. The BMPs would be implemented, inspected, and maintained to minimize the potential for adversely affecting downstream water quality. These may include such measures as silt fencing, hay bales, and placement of polyethylene tarps to cover exposed surfaces. Control of fuel storage and equipment fueling operations for spill prevention and control would be detailed in the SWPPP. On-site construction management will monitor the area for erosion and implement additional control measures if necessary. Stormwater impacts and management are discussed in additional detail in Section 3.3, “Water Resources.” After construction is completed, temporarily disturbed areas will be returned as closely as possible to their original state. This excludes the access roads, crane pads, rock quarries, O&M facilities, and parking areas, which will remain in place for the life of the project.

Feeder Lines

The BPA transmission feeder line involves a proposed riparian crossing of Parke Creek and several small, intermittent drainages. However, based on a field investigation with WDFW staff and project biologists, the proposed construction activities for the BPA transmission feeder line will not impact fish. No hydraulic permit approval will be required for the project (Appendix A). All construction related to the BPA feeder line will be at least 200 feet from the bank of Parke Creek and no construction activity will take place in the stream bed. Provided BMPs are employed on site and compliance with applicable permits regarding runoff and sediment control is maintained, no fish should be affected by construction of the Project. No bull trout habitat

occurs in the project and there are no fish-bearing streams in the project (WDFW 2003). There will be no impacts to listed fish from the project.

Similarly, the PSE transmission feeder line crosses several small intermittent drainages, which have no potential for fish or fish habitat, and the Highline irrigation canals. Any species present in the irrigation canals would most likely be nonsensitive warm-water fish. In addition, the feeder line would span any drainage or canal that occurs within the corridor. The proposed construction activities for the PSE transmission feeder line will not impact fish.

3.6.2.2 Operation and Maintenance Impacts

Operation activities associated with the proposed project that could potentially impact fisheries include stormwater, water use, and wastewater. These potential impacts will be minimized:

- The Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Facility, turbines, and roads all occur along ridgelines, away from the drainages within the project boundary;
- The project will not require the use of any water for cooling or any other use aside from the limited needs of the O&M facility (see Section 3.3.2.1, “Construction Impacts”). Therefore, there will be no industrial wastewater stream from the facility and domestic wastewater from the O&M building will be treated by an on-site septic system.
- Water resources within the proposed project area are limited to intermittent streams, seeps, and wetland habitat with no known fish use. Therefore, potential impacts on fish or fish habitat resulting from operation of the proposed project are unlikely under any of the three scenarios due to the absence of potential fish habitat in the proposed project area.
- Operation of the project would have no impacts on fish and fish habitat downstream of the project area if the proper drainage, erosion control plans, and stormwater management practices are implemented. The proposed design approach, operational procedures, mitigation measures, BMPs, and other pollution prevention measures described in detail in Section 3.3, “Water Resources” would protect water quality associated with the proposed project and freshwater habitat downstream of the proposed project area.

The quantity and quality of stormwater runoff could be affected by operation of the proposed project because of the increase in impervious surfaces, which, if not mitigated, could result in impacts on fisheries habitats downstream of the project area. Surface runoff control facilities will not likely be required due to the low volume of rainfall (9 inches per year) at the project site and the small amount of impervious surfaces spread over a very large area. However, if needed, stormwater from new impervious surfaces associated with the proposed project would be collected into detention and treatment facilities, but stormwater would not be discharged directly into a stream. Impacts associated with stormwater runoff are unlikely, due to the mitigation methods that would be implemented and the distance between the proposed project and the nearest fish habitat. Design plans are not available at this time for the O&M and substation facilities, but the applicant will provide design plans including storm event assumptions when they have been completed.

As previously discussed, the Applicant will prepare and define a SWPPP as part of the final design. The permanent stormwater BMPs will include permanent erosion and sedimentation control through site landscaping, grass, and other vegetative cover. The final designs for these permanent BMPs will conform to the Washington Department of Ecology Stormwater Management Manual. Operational BMPs will be adopted, as part of the SWPPP, to implement good housekeeping, preventive and corrective maintenance procedures, steps for spill prevention and emergency cleanup, employee training programs, and inspection and record keeping practices, as necessary, to prevent stormwater pollution (see Section 3.3 “Water Resources”).

Feeder Lines

Operation and maintenance of the BPA and PSE feeder lines will not affect fish or fish habitat. No transmission feeder line poles or trails will be built in or near any streambed, riparian corridor, or wetlands; therefore, the lines will span any crossed drainages. In particular, the transmission towers for the BPA line would be located at least 200 feet from the bank of Parke Creek and the transmission lines would span the drainage.

3.6.2.3 Decommissioning Impacts

Impacts on fish and fish habitat from decommissioning the proposed project would be similar to project construction. Dismantling the project would reduce the quantity of impervious surfaces in the project area. No impacts from decommissioning are anticipated due to the absence of potential fish habitat in the proposed project area. Mitigation for potential impacts would follow the same procedures in use during construction.

3.6.3 Impacts of Alternatives

3.6.3.1 Impacts of Off-Site Alternatives

Kittitas Valley Alternative

As described for the WHWPP, potential impacts to fish under the Kittitas Valley alternative would be limited to downstream impacts because there are no fish-bearing waters in the project area. Potential construction-related impacts to stream channels, water quality, and water quantity are expected to be short-term and negligible with proper management, including implementation of BMPs and other mitigation measures to control sedimentation and prevent water quality impacts that could potentially affect fish. Access roads associated with the project would cross and permanently disturb between 196 and 714 square feet in three stream channels, however all in stream work would be performed in accordance with a Hydraulic Project Approval (HPA) obtained for the project which would define requirements for erosion and sediment control and identify suitable work windows to minimize potential impacts. Adverse affects to downstream habitat, including the Yakima River are not expected to occur as a result of this alternative.

Operation of the project would have no adverse impacts on fish and fish habitat in the Yakima River downstream of the project site assuming proper drainage, erosion control, and stormwater management practices are implemented.

Desert Claim Alternative

Because none of the streams in the Desert Claim project area are known to contain fish, potential impacts to fish are expected to be limited to downstream impacts, similar to both the WHWPP and the Kittitas Valley alternative. This alternative may have a slightly higher potential for impacts, however, due to the presence of Type 3 waters on the site, although these waters are not known to contain fish. As described for the WHWPP and the Kittitas Valley alternatives, BMPs and other mitigation measures to control sedimentation during both project construction and operations are expected to prevent water quality impacts that could potentially affect fish downstream of the project area.

Springwood Ranch Alternative

The Springwood Ranch alternative has a higher potential to impact fish than the WHWPP and the Kittitas Valley and Desert Claim alternatives and could have adverse effects on important fish habitat and on Endangered, Threatened, Sensitive and Priority Species in both the Yakima River and Taneum Creek. Construction-related impacts, primarily delivery of sediment to streams, would most likely exist even though required shoreline setbacks would avoid construction disturbance close to the streams. Some of the turbine locations near the top of steep slopes above the Yakima River or Taneum Creek have been identified as high erosion and/or landslide hazard areas, posing a risk of sedimentation. These physical conditions represent localized concerns for potential impacts to fish and fish habitat from construction disturbance, and might warrant site-specific mitigation measures in addition to the standard BMPs.

Swauk Valley Ranch Alternative

Since the Swauk Valley alternative lies in close proximity to Springwood Ranch and adjacent to the Yakima River, potential impacts of this alternative are likely to be similar to those described for the Springwood Ranch alternative.

3.6.3.2 Impacts of No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the project would not be constructed or operated. However, development of a different nature could occur under Kittitas County's existing Comprehensive Plan and zoning regulations for the project area. Depending on the location, type, and magnitude of future developments at the project site, impacts on fish and fish habitat, threatened or endangered fish species could be similar to or even greater than the proposed action.

Other power generation facilities could be constructed and operated in the region to meet the long-term need for power. Constructing a base load gas-fired turbine generator, developing and extracting natural gas, and constructing natural gas pipelines to provide fuel to the generating facility could create impacts on fish and fish habitat, and threatened and endangered fish species.

Construction of renewable energy facilities could also result in impacts on fish and fish habitat, and threatened and endangered fish species. The significance of such impacts would depend on the site-specific location and design of the facility.

3.6.4 Mitigation Measures

The proposed design of the project incorporates numerous features to avoid and/or minimize impacts on fisheries. The project layout (Figure 1-2) has been designed to avoid any impacts to streams and riparian areas. Features of the project that are designed to avoid or minimize impacts include:

- Minimizing new road construction by improving and using existing roads and trails instead of constructing new roads.
- Roads, underground cables, turbine foundations, transmission poles, and other associated infrastructure will not be located within any riparian areas or streams or other sensitive resources.

Many of the wildlife measures outlined in Section 3.5.4, "Wildlife—Mitigation Measures" and surface water measures outlined in Section 3.3.4, "Water Resources – Mitigation Measures" also apply here. A formal SWPPP would be implemented and BMPs would be initiated to retain sediment from disturbed areas and minimize areas of disturbance. In addition, the proposed construction activities for the transmission feeder lines would not involve the use of any heavy equipment in streambeds or riparian areas.

3.6.4.1 Construction Techniques and BMPs to Minimize Impacts

Constructing the project has the potential to impact fisheries in a variety of ways. Even though no fisheries issues were identified in the project area, the Applicant proposes using construction techniques and BMPs to minimize these potential impacts. These include the following:

- Using BMPs to minimize construction-related surface water runoff and soil erosion.
- Flagging sensitive habitat areas (e.g., wetlands, seeps, and drainages) near proposed areas of construction activity and designating such areas as "off limits" to all construction personnel.
- Properly storing and managing all wastes generated during construction.
- Requiring construction personnel to avoid driving over or otherwise disturbing areas outside the designated construction areas.
- Designating an environmental monitor during construction to monitor construction activities and ensuring compliance with mitigation measures.

3.6.4.2 Post-Construction Restoration of Temporarily Disturbed Areas

The following measures would be taken to restore temporarily disturbed areas after construction:

- All temporarily disturbed areas would be reseeded with an appropriate mix of native plant species as soon as possible after construction is completed to accelerate the revegetation of these areas and to prevent the spread of noxious weeds.
- The Applicant would consult with WDFW regarding the appropriate seed mixes for the project area.

3.6.5 Significant Unavoidable Adverse Impacts

No significant unavoidable adverse impacts to fish resources are expected as a result of the proposed project. Fish-bearing aquatic resources are not located within approximately 1 mile of the project area and 5 miles downstream of the project. In addition, no drainages would be directly impacted by the project, and BMPs would minimize the potential water quality, sediment, and runoff impacts associated with construction.